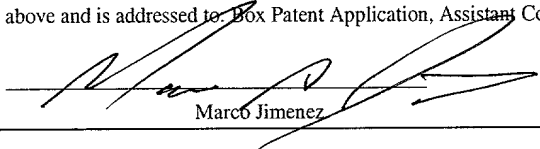


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Marco Jimenez

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Kazuhisa OKAMURA et al.

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filing Date: Concurrently herewith

For: TONE SIGNAL PROCESSING
APPARATUS WITH INTERMITTENT
CLOCK SUPPLY

Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: 2837

Parent Serial No.: 09/809,816

Parent Filing Date: March 16, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to accompany the above-identified continuation application. The entire disclosure of the prior application, application serial no. 09/809,816, filed on March 16, 2001, from which an oath or declaration is supplied, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation application and is hereby entirely incorporated by reference.

The Applicants respectfully requests entry and consideration of the following Amendment before fees are calculated for the above-identified patent application and before examination on the merits commences:

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel** claims 1-17.

Please **add** claims 18-26 as follows.

18. (New) An apparatus operating on the basis of an operating clock for generating a tone signal in response to a sounding start instruction, the apparatus comprising:

a tone generating block that is configured for generating tone signals for a plurality of sounding channels in a time division manner;

a control data inputting block that is configured for inputting control data effective to specify a number of the sounding channels to be used;

a clock control block that is configured on the basis of the control data for stopping a supply of the operating clock to the tone generating block in a given duration during which the specified number of the sounding channels are not used; and

a sounding control block that is configured in accordance with the sounding start instruction for allocating tone signals corresponding to the sounding start instruction to the number of sounding channels determined on the basis of the control data, and for starting generation of the tone signals through the allocated sounding channels.

19. (New) An apparatus operating on the basis of an operating clock for generating tone signals in response to a sounding start instruction, the apparatus comprising:

a tone generating block that is configured for generating tone signals for a plurality of sounding channels in a time division manner;

a sounding control block that is configured in accordance with the sounding start instruction for allocating tone signals corresponding to the sounding start instruction to the sounding channels, and for starting generation of the tone signals through the allocated sounding channels;

a volume detecting block that is configured for detecting a volume level of each of the sounding channels;

a control data generating block that is configured on the basis of the detected volume level of each sounding channel for generating control data effective to control a supply of the operating clock to each sounding channel; and

a clock control block that is configured on the basis of the control data for controlling the supply of the operating clock to the tone generating block.

20. (New) A signal processing apparatus, comprising:

a signal processing block that is configured responsive to an operating clock for carrying out signal processing by executing a program;

a program selecting block that is configured for selecting a program to be executed by the signal processing block and for setting the selected program to the signal processing block;

a control data generating block that is configured on the basis of the set program for generating control data indicative of a program part not valid or effective in the set program; and

a clock control block that is configured on the basis of the control data for stopping a supply of the operating clock to the signal processing block in a given duration corresponding to the program part indicated by the control data.

21. (New) A method of operating a tone generator on the basis of an operating clock for generating a tone signal in response to a sounding start instruction, the method comprising the steps of:

configuring the tone generator for generating tone signals through a plurality of sounding channels in a time division manner;

inputting control data effective to specify a number of the sounding channels to be used;

stopping a supply of the operating clock to the tone generator according to the control data for a given duration during which the specified number of the sounding channels are not used;

allocating tone signals corresponding to the sounding start instruction to the number of sounding channels determined on the basis of the control data; and

starting generation of the tone signals through the allocated sounding channels.

22. (New) A computer program having instructions for causing a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

configuring the tone generator for generating tone signals through a plurality of sounding channels in a time division manner;

inputting control data effective to specify a number of the sounding channels to be used;

stopping a supply of the operating clock to the tone generator according to the control data for a given duration during which the specified number of the sounding channels are not used;

allocating tone signals corresponding to the sounding start instruction to the number of sounding channels determined on the basis of the control data; and

starting generation of the tone signals through the allocated sounding channels.

23. (New) A method of operating a tone generator on the basis of an operating clock for generating tone signals in response to a sounding start instruction, the method comprising the steps of:

configuring the tone generator for generating tone signals through a plurality of sounding channels in a time division manner;

allocating tone signals corresponding to the sounding start instruction to the sounding channels in accordance with the sounding start instruction;

starting generation of the tone signals through the allocated sounding channels;

detecting a volume level of each of the sounding channels;

generating control data effective to control a supply of the operating clock to each sounding channel on the basis of the detected volume level of each sounding channel; and

controlling the supply of the operating clock to the tone generator on the basis of the control data.

24. (New) A computer program having instructions for causing a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

- configuring the tone generator for generating tone signals through a plurality of sounding channels in a time division manner;
- allocating tone signals corresponding to the sounding start instruction to the sounding channels in accordance with the sounding start instruction;
- starting generation of the tone signals through the allocated sounding channels;
- detecting a volume level of each of the sounding channels;
- generating control data effective to control a supply of the operating clock to each sounding channel on the basis of the detected volume level of each sounding channel; and
- controlling the supply of the operating clock to the tone generator on the basis of the control data.

25. (New) A signal processing method comprising the steps of:

- configuring a signal processor responsive to an operating clock for carrying out signal processing by executing a program;
- selecting a program to be executed by the signal processor and setting the selected program to the signal processor;
- generating control data indicative of a program part not valid or effective in the set program; and
- stopping a supply of the operating clock to the signal processor in a given duration corresponding to the program part indicated by the control data.

26. (New) A computer program having instructions for causing a computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

configuring a signal processor responsive to an operating clock for carrying out signal processing by executing a program;

selecting a program to be executed by the signal processor and setting the selected program to the signal processor;

generating control data indicative of a program part not valid or effective in the set program; and

stopping a supply of the operating clock to the signal processor in a given duration corresponding to the program part indicated by the control data.

REMARKS

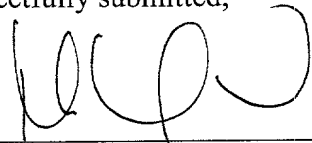
Claims 18-26 are currently pending in the present application, with claims 1-17 being canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 39303-20231.01.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 12, 2001

By:



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